



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER PROMINENT UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL ARRESTED BY ICE AGENTS IN ORLANDO

ORLANDO –A 55-year-old former prominent Ukrainian government official was arrested here yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents for being in violation of his immigration status.

Volodymyr Scherban entered the United States in Miami, Florida on April 9, 2005 on a non-immigrant B-2 visa with authorization to remain in the United States for a temporary period not to exceed Oct. 8, 2005. He was arrested at his residence in Orlando for overstaying his non-immigrant visa.

At one time, Scherban was the leader of the Liberal Party of the Ukraine. He also served as governor of the Donetsk and Sumy regions.

According to a U.S. State Department report on Human Rights, on Aug. 6, 2004, police in Sumy Oblast, acting on direct orders from Governor Scherban, attacked a large group of students who were marching along a major highway to Kiev to protest the merger of three colleges in Sumy. Opposition witnesses at the scene said police pushed students to the ground, kicked them, beat them with truncheons, and dragged at least 20 of them to a police station.

In May 2005, the General Prosecutor's Office (GPO) of the Ukraine issued an arrest warrant for Scherban. The warrant was issued for threats, extortion, and exceeding government authority in connection with the 2004 elections in the Ukraine. Scherban is charged with directing significant efforts to defraud the election, threats and bribery. These actions contributed to widespread corruption, voter intimidation and fraud that caused the election results to be thrown out. "Although no extradition treaty exists between the United States and the Ukraine, justice will be served by initiating the deportation process and returning this individual to his country," said Frank Figueroa, ICE special agent-in-charge in Tampa.

Scherban was processed by ICE, given a Notice to Appear with a court date, and placed in removal proceedings. He is in ICE custody without bond awaiting the outcome of his case.

#ICE#

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibility for a number of key homeland security priorities.